

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re patent application of:)	
)	
Branch et al.)	Before the Examiner
)	
Serial No.)	
)	Group Art Unit
Filed Herewith)	
)	
INTERBODY FUSION GRAFTS AND)	
INSTRUMENTATION)	

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
 PO Box 1450
 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

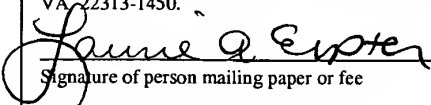
Sir:

Pursuant to the duty of disclosure in accordance with 37 CFR §1.56, Applicant wishes to bring to the attention of the Examiner the patents, publications, and/or other information listed on the attached PTO Form 1449 (modified). All the references listed on the attached Form were cited in the pending priority US application. Consequently, copies of these references have not been included with this Statement. Should the Examiner desire copies of the references, the undersigned attorney will gladly forward them.

The filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed as an admission that the information cited is, or is considered to be, material to patentability as defined in §1.56(b).

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I hereby certify that this paper is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 CFR Section 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, PO Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.


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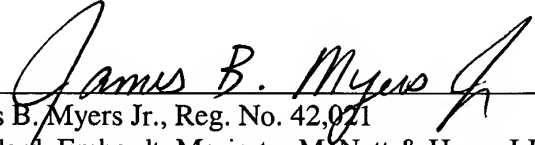
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Page 1 of 2

This Statement is being submitted concurrently with the filing of the application. It is believed that no fee is required for consideration of the submitted items. Should any fee be required, however, please charge such fee to Deposit Account No. 23-3030, but not to include any payment of issue fees.

Respectfully submitted,

By: _____


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Substitute for form 1449A/PTO INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT <i>(use as many sheets as necessary)</i>				<i>Complete if Known</i>	
				Application Number	Filed Herewith
				Filing Date	August 21, 2003
				First Named Inventor	Branch
				Group Art Unit	
				Examiner Name	
Sheet	1	of	2	Attorney Docket No.	4002-3309

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Document Number	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Application of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number-Kind Code ² (if known)			
		3,486,505	05/1967	Morrison	
		3,848,601	11/1974	Ma et al.	
		4,545,374	10/1985	Jacobson	
		4,714,469	12/1987	Kenna	
		4,736,738	04/1988	Lipovsek et al.	
		4,743,256	05/1988	Brantigan	
		4,834,757	05/1989	Brantigan	
		4,877,020	10/1989	Vich	
		4,878,915	11/1989	Brantigan	
		4,950,296	08/1990	McIntyre	
		5,015,247	05/1991	Michelson	
		5,062,845	11/1991	Kuslich et al.	
		5,190,548	03/1993	Davis	
		5,250,061	10/1993	Michelson	
		5,306,309	04/1994	Wagner et al.	
		5,423,825	06/1995	Levine	
		5,423,855	06/1995	Marienne	
		5,425,772	06/1995	Brantigan	
		5,443,514	08/1995	Steffee	
		5,445,639	08/1995	Kuslich et al.	
		5,484,437	01/1996	Michelson	
		5,489,307	02/1996	Kuslich et al.	
		5,499,984	03/1996	Steiner	
		5,514,180	05/1996	Heggeness et al.	
		5,593,409	01/1997	Michelson	
		5,609,636	03/1997	Kohrs et al.	
		5,645,598	07/1997	Brosnahan, III	
		5,669,909	09/1997	Zdeblick et al.	
		5,669,909	09/1997	Zdeblick et al.	
		5,709,683	01/1998	Bagby	

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

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				Application Number	Filed Herewith
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U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Document Number	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Application of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number-Kind Code ² (if known)			
		5,716,355	02/1998	Jackson et al.	
		5,720,749	02/1998	Rupp	
		5,728,159	03/1998	Stroeve et al.	
		5,741,253	04/1998	Michelson	
		5,766,253	06/1998	Brosnahan, III	
		5,857,995	01/1999	Thomas et al.	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Application of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T*
		Country Code ² -Number ³ -Kind Code ⁴ (if known)				
		EP 0077159	4/1983			
		EP 0307241	3/1989			
		PCT 95/08306	3/1995			
		PCT 95/15133	6/1995			
		PCT 96/22747	8/1996			
		PCT 96/40013	12/1996			
		PCT 97/13378	4/1997			
		PCT 97/15248	5/1997			
		PCT 97/25945	7/1997			

OTHER PRIOR ART - NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s) publisher city and/or country where published				T ²
		AcroMed Spine Tools "PLIG Instruments" (undated)				
		"Brantigan I/F Cage Acromed" (undated)				
		"Brantigan I/F Cage for PLIF"(1991)				
		Sofamor Danek "Laparoscopic Bone Dowel Surgical Technique" (1995)				
		Sofamor Danek "Surgical Technique Using Bone Dowel Instrumentation for Posterior Approach", LIT.PLIF.ST96 (1996)				
		Sofamor Danek "Surgical Tips Posterior Approach" (1998)				
		University of Florida Tissue Bank, Inc. "Allograft Catalog" (1998)				

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